



## MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/ TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

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### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017**

### **MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK – ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chair John Steelquist called the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. **Quorum was established with 9 members present.** Note – This 17-member Board requires (9) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

**Members Present** – John Bigay (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Tana Cambe, Charles Carole, Diane Chong, Chuck Lee, Samuel Mitchell, Chuck Reindollar, John Scott, John Steelquist, and Susan Lai Young.

**Members Absent** – Darrell Ah Yong, Charles Amsterdam, Richard Kawano, Paul Klink, Isaiah Sabey, and Lee Ann Tokuhara.

**Vacancies** – There was one (1) vacant seat in Subdistrict 2.

**Guests** – Acting Captain Alvin Ku (Honolulu Fire Department), Lieutenant Baron Lee and Sergeant Shinichi Masaki II (Honolulu Police Department), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Steve Uyeno, Councilmember Carol Fukunaga, Director Guy Kaulukukui (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's representative), Steve Chan (Representative Sylvia Luke's Office), Pat Lee (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation), Mike Cubas (Board of Water Supply), Harold Burger (Makiki Community Library), Aaron Padilla and Sheryl Kramer (Honolulu Museum of Art, Spalding House), Aggie Kamana, Elaine Spencer, Grace Sowdy, Donna Tanabe, Monique Van Der Aa (Tradewinds Cycling Team), H. Doug Matsuoka, Tanya Harrison, Steven Antonio (videographer); Uyen Vong (Neighborhood Commission Office).

**FILLING OF VACANCY** – As there were no nominations, the filling of vacancy in Subdistrict 2 was deferred to next month.

### **CITY MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – Acting Captain Alvin Ku reported the following:

- **Statistics**: There were 3 cooking fires and 12 activated alarms. The activated alarms are usually false alarms. There were 164 medical emergencies, 8 motor vehicle crashes/collisions and 1 hazardous material incident.
- **Fire Safety Tip**: As part of the fall prevention tips for seniors, HFD encourages all seniors to get regular exercise to help build strength, improve balance, and enhance coordination as well as keep clear of stairs and walkways, improve lighting inside and outside of the home, and wear sturdy, well-fitting shoes.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: **Medical Emergency**: A resident stated that recently he had to place a medical emergency call and thanked HFD for arriving on the scene within five (5) minutes and noted ambulance also arrived on the scene shortly after.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Lieutenant Baron Lee introduced himself and Sergeant Shinichi Masaki II. Lieutenant Lee reported the following:

- **December 2016 Crime Statistics** – There were 7 motor vehicle thefts, 6 burglaries, 40 thefts, 60 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, 6 assaults, 1 sex assault, 1 graffiti incident, and 2 drug offenses. There were 1,921 total calls for service.
- **Pedestrian Safety Tips**: Wear bright colors and walk in well-lit areas. Make eye contact with drivers and always yield both ways before crossing the street. Avoid using headphones or cellphones while crossing the street.

**John Bigay arrived at 6:45 p.m.; 10 members were present.**

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Crime Mapping Statistics: Lai Young asked for the status for crime mapping in Makiki and the reason for the difference in the number reported incidents and number of calls for service. Lieutenant Lee explained that miscellaneous service calls and medical assist calls are included in the number of calls for service. Lieutenant Lee stated that crime mapping is available online but he has not received an update on whether it will be provided on reports provided to neighborhood boards.
2. Phone Use While Crossing Street: Chong asked and Lieutenant Lee explained that phone usage while crossing the street is not illegal but should be avoided for safety reasons.
3. HPD Report: Scott commented that the HPD reports provided to neighborhood boards does not provide enough detailed information such as statistics on homicides.
4. Information Theft: Mitchell reported that people trespassed into his apartment building and were looking for documents with sensitive information in the trash. Lieutenant Lee replied that everyone should be shredding any documents with sensitive information and that this is a common practice for scammers.
5. Moped Legislation: Mitchell asked for an update on the moped legislation that was signed into law recently. Lieutenant Lee responded that there is a grace period before enforcement takes place.
6. Dole Community Park: Cambe reported that there have been groups of people lingering in Dole Community Park afterhours and that there appears to be more graffiti.
7. UEMV: Lee asked how the number of UEMVs compared to the rest of Oahu. Lieutenant Lee responded there was a trend in increased UEMVs last month and the majority of UEMVs in Makiki were due to unlocked vehicles.
8. Apartment on Kinau Street: A resident who identified himself as the manager of “Royal Kinau Apartments” reported that a small apartment behind the “Kinau Store” may be housing 25 or more people who are doing illicit activities. The resident stated he had called HPD about 20 times in the last two years. The resident held a petition with 25 signatures from people with concerns about the home behind the Kinau Store. The resident stated that behavior of those residents has gotten worse. Lieutenant Lee responded the residents should continue to call 911 and provide responders with as much information as possible. Another resident testified witnessing disturbances such as partying late at night, violence, and screaming. The resident also reported concerns about inadequate trash pickup around the city that could potentially lead to a disease outbreak. Mitchell suggested that residents complain to the Honolulu Liquor Commission or find out who owns the property. Another resident suggested calling Childcare Services if children are left outside and unattended late at night. Another resident stated that this issue has been going on for over two (2) years. Chair Steelquist noted that this issue will be on the agenda for the February 2017 meeting.
9. Fireworks: A resident reported that she heard fireworks from 7:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve even though fireworks were only permitted from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The resident wanted to know how many fireworks citations were issued. Lieutenant Lee will follow up.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Mike Cubas circulated a handout and reported the following:

- 2017 Water Conservation Calendar and Water Conservation Contests: The BWS is excited to launch its’ 39th annual Water Conservation Week Poster Contest and 9th annual Poetry Contest. For 2017, the contest theme, “Conserve to Preserve,” invites Oahu students to creatively express the importance of conserving water now to preserve our water supply for the future. The poster contest is open to Oahu students in grades kindergarten through six (6). The poetry contest is open to Oahu students in grades seven (7) to twelve. The deadline to enter these contests is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.
- 30-Year Main Break Data: A histogram of data on main breaks spanning 30 years is available. In general, the number of main breaks has been decreasing.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Alapai/Lusitana Streets: A resident brought up a concern that construction projects are not coordinated between and within the city and state which results in multiple projects at the same location completed at different times. The resident cited current construction at Alapai and Lusitana Streets as an example.
2. Main Break Histogram: Lai Young asked about trends in main breaks in correlation to installation of new pipelines and Cubas replied that the number of main breaks is not included in the number of installation of new pipelines.

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) – Pat Lee reported the following:

- General Excise Tax (GET): HART and the City will be seeking an extension of the half percent GET surcharge from the Hawaii State Legislature this session to obtain more funds to complete the 20-mile, 21 station rail project. Due to projected increases in construction costs, an extension of the GET is needed to finish the full project as planned, which would include all of the stations in Kalihi as well as the guideway and stations to Ala Moana Center.

- Guideway Completion Update: Approximately 11 miles of guideway is completed and tracks are being installed from the Aloha Stadium to east Kapolei. The test tracks at the Rail Operations Center should be energized soon, and this will be followed by train testing up on the guideway. The trains will be tested at nights and on weekends. Testing includes verification of all safety features of the signaling system, starting and stopping at various station locations, keeping proper speed and schedule, and stopping at the correct spot at the stations where the platform passenger safety gates open and close for boarding.
- Signaling System Integrated Qualification Test: Following the train qualification testing, HART will perform the signaling system integrated qualification test for the automatic train protection (ATP) system. This will verify the over-speed protection and other safety features of the signaling system. Once the preliminary testing is completed the train will progress into automated operations testing.
- Contact Information: For general project information, traffic updates, meeting notices, and more information, please visit [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org) or call the project hotline at 566-2299 or email a question to [info@honolulutranist.org](mailto:info@honolulutranist.org).

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Safety Concerns: Reindollar stated that the newspaper reported safety concerns about the rail and asked if the safety concerns have been addressed. P. Lee responded that rust found in the tendons have been repaired or replaced and the shims, which keeps the track leveled, were cracking but the new shims are now under testing by HART. P. Lee commented that there were defects found in the railcar that could turn into cracks so it was fortunate that it was found early so that Hitachi could repair or replace it.
2. Labor Costs: Reindollar asked if HART is paying for the labor costs of repairing the rail. P. Lee responded that it would be the contractor's responsibility to pay for the cost of repair or replacement.
3. Rail Surcharge: Carole asked how much longer the rail surcharge will be in place. P. Lee responded that it would depend on the state legislature and he is unable to determine a timeline at this time.
4. Construction Update: Bigay asked for an update on the next segment of rail construction. P. Lee responded that the next segment, between the Honolulu International Airport and Middle Street, is 5.2 miles and was awarded to a joint effort by Shimmick, Trayler and Granite. The contractor just received notice to proceed and have begun work on the segment. There is no update on the timeline. Bigay asked and P. Lee responded the three stations from East Kapolei to Hoopili were awarded to Nan, Inc. then the next three stations (West Loch, Waipahu Transit Center, and Leeward Community College) were awarded to Hawaiian Dredging Construction, then the next three stations (Pearl Highlands, Pearlridge Center, and Aloha Stadium) were awarded to Nan, Inc.
5. Road Sign: Bigay commented that he saw a green tube that came out from the ground in Pearl Kai and P. Lee responded that it may be a structure for a road sign.
6. GET: Lai Young asked for confirmation that the GET is only for construction and not for operating costs. P. Lee stated he was unsure but the GET surcharge should only be used for construction only. Lai Young asked what the funding mechanism would be when rail is in operation. P. Lee commented that the rail operations will be under the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Lai Young asked and P. Lee answered that the first ten miles of the rail line is expected to be open for ridership by 2020. P. Lee noted that this is the first driverless rail system in the US.

#### RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Tradewinds Cycling Team: Monique Van Der Aa announced that there will be a bicycling race on Sunday, April 2, 2017 from Makiki Heights Drive. The public should not expect congestion on the road because the start times are staggered. HPD and volunteers will assist in monitoring traffic.
- Nehoa Street: A resident commented that road repairs are needed in Makiki especially the sidewalk on Nehoa Street.

#### CITY REPORTS

City Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Councilmember Ann Kobayashi distributed her newsletter and reported the following:

- Parks Committee: Councilmember Kobayashi is now chair of the Parks Committee and would like feedback on all parks on Oahu. Councilmember Kobayashi will be introducing a resolution to retain Thomas Square Park under the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) instead transferring it to the Department of Enterprise Services (DES).
- Cartwright Field: Councilmember Kobayashi is introducing a resolution to place a memorial plaque for Alexander Cartwright, the "father of baseball".

- Community Parks: Councilmember Kobayashi will listen to seniors and adults about installing exercise apparatus in community parks.

Questions, comments, and concerns that followed:

1. Thomas Square Park: Mitchell requested that the City use another type of grass than the rumored itchy “anti-homeless” grass that will be installed at Thomas Square Park.
2. Lighting in Parks: Cambe commented that parks need better lighting at night so sports activities can continue at night.
3. Pool: Bigay commented that the pool in Makiki District Park is too cold and that there are no shower rooms. Bigay also noted that the pool hours are limited. Councilmember Kobayashi replied that it may be because there are no lifeguards.
4. Timing Switch for Lights: Mitchell suggested using timing switches for park lights so it is only in use when people are using the park.
5. Basketball Court: Lai Young asked for a status update on the reconstruction of the basketball court at Dole Community Park. Councilmember Kobayashi replied that Councilmember Fukunaga put the money in the budget but it is up to the administration to release the money and prioritize it.
6. Cartwright Plaque: Carole asked why the City Council is erecting a statue of Alexander Cartwright. Councilmember Kobayashi clarified that it is a plaque, not a statue.

City Councilmember Carol Fukunaga – Councilmember Fukunaga distributed her newsletter and reported the following:

- Park Updates: Due to a recent charter amendment, DPR has taken over some projects originally under the Department of Design and Construction. In regards to Kamamalu Park, DPR is also working with YMCA-Nuuanu who has offered to take responsibility for park maintenance and security of the comfort station that will be relocated closer to the YMCA.
- Hassinger Project: The first meeting was convened by the Department of Community Services (DCS) in December 2016 and more information about the meeting is contained in the attachment with Councilmember Fukunaga’s newsletter.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Affordable Housing: Carole asked what happens with the money paid by developers in lieu of building affordable units in a building. Councilmember Fukunaga state she and Councilmember Kobayashi introduced a proposal to collect the fees into a special fund which can only be used for affordable housing-related projects.
2. Parks Committee: Reindollar asked who was in charge of parks before Councilmember Kobayashi and Councilmember Fukunaga clarified that the DPR director is Director Michele Nekota and that Councilmember Kobayashi is in charge of the oversight.
3. Affordable Housing: A resident asked how “affordable housing” is defined and asked if homeless people are included in that population. Councilmember Fukunaga responded that the definition of affordable housing has expanded from its initial definition of public housing to a broader definition.
4. Sidewalk: Chong asked for an update on Nehoa Street sidewalk. Councilmember Fukunaga noted that the funds are waiting to be released by the administration.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s Representative – Director Guy Kaulukukui from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) reported the following:

- King Street Bicycle Lane: The Department of Transportation (DTS) responded that the final report for the King Street protected bike lane is currently being drafted and will be available to the neighborhood board when it is finalized. In response to a question brought up at the previous meeting, motor vehicles entering a roadway from a driveway currently have to stop and yield to pedestrians on the sidewalks and to bicyclists in the bike lane. Bicycles are part of the prevailing traffic and do not have to stop for vehicles entering the roadway. Enforcement is an HPD function and should be directed to them.
- Hassinger Project: The Hassinger Project was purchased vacant and it was a school with classrooms and bathrooms. The building is undergoing extensive renovation to convert it into 42 individual apartment units with bathrooms and kitchens for each unit and will be used as permanent rentals. Construction is ongoing and expected to be completed in late March or April 2017. The Beretania property was also purchased vacant but already fully renovated as 24 apartments units except that two (2) units must be converted to be in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Abandoned House on Pensacola Street: DPP issued a violation notice for an unkempt property located at 1421 Pensacola Street. Because the violation was not corrected, a Notice of Order was issued for civil fines

and a lien was placed on the property. A request was sent to the City's Department of Corporation Counsel to obtain a court order for the City to enter the property and correct the violation.

- Thomas Square Park: Thomas Square Park has been fully closed since the beginning of January 2017. The projected completion date on the renovations of Thomas Square Park is the end of July 2017.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. King Street Bicycle Lane: Chong commented that asking motorists to look both ways for bicyclists and pedestrians while making a turn on King Street puts undue liability on the motorist. Chong suggested turning the bicycle lane into a unidirectional lane. Director Kaulukukui agreed with Chong's sentiments but responded that bicyclists have the same right of way as pedestrians.
2. Thomas Square Park: Mitchell commented that more trash cans are needed outside the construction site and the walls need to be painted at Thomas Square Park. Mitchell asked for portable toilets outside the construction area and repeated rumors about the City's plans to install itchy grass to keep homeless people away. Director Kaulukukui will follow up and commented that the type of grass being installed is not itchy nor anti-homeless and was chosen based on capacity to fight weed growth.
3. Transfer of Thomas Square Park: Resident H. Doug Matsuoka brought up concerns about transferring Thomas Square Park from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to Department of Enterprise Services (DES). Matsuoka was concerned about not being able to use first amendment right and alluded to a rule at the Neal Blaisdell Center that prohibits passing out pamphlets. Matsuoka commented that these rules are not found in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu but rather only in the house rules established by DES. Matsuoka commented that the public was not involved in the process of making these rules. Director Kaulukukui agreed that it is a shortcoming that the department did not adopt rules in an official capacity and noted that HPD was willing to enforce against it, and it has been suggested to the department to develop these rules. Matsuoka repeated his question on how the public can ensure that their first amendment right is upheld at Thomas Square Park. Director Kaulukukui responded that the public can be involved in the rule making process and that there is oversight at different levels through Corporation Counsel, the mayor, and the city council.
4. Zoysia Grass: A resident suggested to not use zoysia grass because it is sharp and pointy. Director Kaulukukui said there are different types of zoysia grass.
5. Rules at Thomas Square Park: Mitchell commented that a previous public meeting at the Blaisdell a security guard tried to confiscate someone's camera because there was a rule prohibiting filming. Director Kaulukukui commented that the security guard made a mistake and that training should have been provided to the staff about these rules.
6. Street Parking: A resident commented that street parking is a big issue around the Hassinger project and suggested using the empty lot at the intersection of Pensacola Street and Lunalihō Street.
7. Progress at Thomas Square Park: A resident suggested creating viewing holes in the barriers around the construction site at Thomas Square Park so that the public can see the progress of the project. Director Kaulukukui will follow up and commented that DES is looking into painting the barriers with help from an art school.

#### STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Brian Taniguchi – No representative was present and no report was provided.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria – No representative was present and no newsletter was provided.

Representative Sylvia Luke – A representative was at the meeting earlier; no report was provided.

Representative Della Au Belatti – No representative was present and no report was provided. A resident commented that Representative Belatti was recently named Legislator of the Year.

Governor David Ige's Representative – No representative was present and no report was provided.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sidewalk on Nehoa Street: There was no update.

Dog Park Update: There was no update.

Abandoned Home on Pensacola Street: Chair Steelquist commented that he received a report stating that some progress was made on this issue.

Flooding in Maunulaha: Chair Steelquist stated a resident requested this to be on the agenda, but they were not here to discuss this issue.

Bicycle Lanes on King and Beretania Streets: Chair Steelquist stated it was previously discussed and there were no further updates.

Thomas Square Closure: Chair Steelquist stated it was previously discussed.

Complete Streets in Makiki: Chair Steelquist stated there were no updates.

Skyline Honolulu residential development project: Chair Steelquist stated there were no updates.

HPD Recognition: A resident suggested that the Makiki residents should coordinate a recognition day for HPD and suggested having the event at the fire station on Makiki Street. Chair Steelquist commented that it is a good idea but they should find an organization to sponsor the event. Another resident suggested to contact him to possibly hold the event at the Makiki Community Library.

**Chair Steelquist moved the agenda back to item 4, Residents and Community Concerns.**

Important Agriculture Lands (IALs): A resident asked if there are IALs in Makiki and commented that if any homes is designated as IAL it will show up on their maps.

**The agenda was returned to order.**

#### BOARD BUSINESS

Presentation on Upcoming Events at the Spalding House, Honolulu Museum of Art: Aaron Padilla reported the following:

- HoMA SELECT: There is an exhibition called HoMA SELECT, a special collection of 22 items from the Honolulu Museum of Art and now placed in a special exhibition at Spalding House.
- Tuesday Tours: A special tour of Spalding House is now available on Tuesdays and is offered with a free shuttle service from the Honolulu Museum of Art on Beretania Street. The tour may be expanded to several days of the week later on. However, the tour is available to members only.
- New Director: Sean O'Harrow is the new director of the museum.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

- Six Events: Chair Steelquist asked and Padilla replied that six (6) events are still scheduled and two (2) will be made available to the public.
- More Information: Padilla commented that more information is available at [www.honolulumuseum.org](http://www.honolulumuseum.org).

Approval of the November 17 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes – The November 17, 2016 regular meeting were UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED (AYE: Bigay, Cambe, Carole, Chong, Lai Young, Lee, Mitchell, Reindollar, Scott, and Steelquist)

Treasurer's Report – Lai Young reported a remaining balance of \$263.36. The report was filed.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning: There was no report.

Transportation: There was no report.

Health, Safety, and Wellness: There was no report.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Arcadia Retirement Residence – Chair Steelquist announced that Arcadia Retirement Residence is having an open house on Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Makiki Community Library: The Makiki Community Library will be having an annual meeting on Saturday, February 18, 2017.
- Next Meeting – The Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at the Makiki District Park.
- Broadcasts – The meetings can be viewed on 'Ōlelo FOCUS 49 at 9:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the month; and again on the first and third Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Uyen Vong, Community Relations Specialist